GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2282
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
ALLOCATION FOR EDUCATION
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item appearing in The Hindu on 21.10.2002 wherein the Defence Minister of India is stated to have remarked in Bangalore, 'Education had never received the priority it deserved. No other country in the world will be as guilty as India on this count';

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government to this statement;

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated for education during the 10th Five Year Plan; and

(e) the priority allotted to the education field in the said Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): The views reportedly expressed therein do not reflect the Government's position. The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 as modified in 1992, evolved on a national consensus, has laid down a comprehensive framework that guides the development of education in its entirety. It continues to be relevant and has stood the test of time. The NPE envisages that in the national perception, education is essentially for all, and is fundamental to the all-round development, material and spiritual. Concerns regarding social justice, equity and equal opportunity in education are continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions. A number of schemes and programmes have been formulated and implemented in conformity with the provisions of the NPE and its Programme ofAction. The details of schemes/programmes are available in the Annual Reports of the Ministry (Department of Secondary & Higher Education and Department of Elementary Education & Literacy).

Government has accorded high priority to education and it is its constant endeavour to raise the allocations for education. The Plan outlay for education is Rs.43825 crore in the 10th Five Year Plan; an increase of 75.94% over the allocation of Rs.24908.38 crore in the 9th Five Year Plan. This shows that high priority has been accorded to education in the 10th Five Year Plan, in spite of the constraint on resources and other competing priorities.